

THE Shadow

DYNAMITE 5

GARTH ENNIS • AARON CAMPBELL





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Handwritten signature and the date AUGUST 2001.

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THE Shadow®

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DYNAMITE

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MAJOR KONDO!
SURVIVORS IN THE
WATER, SIR!

KILL
THEM.



AAAAH!!

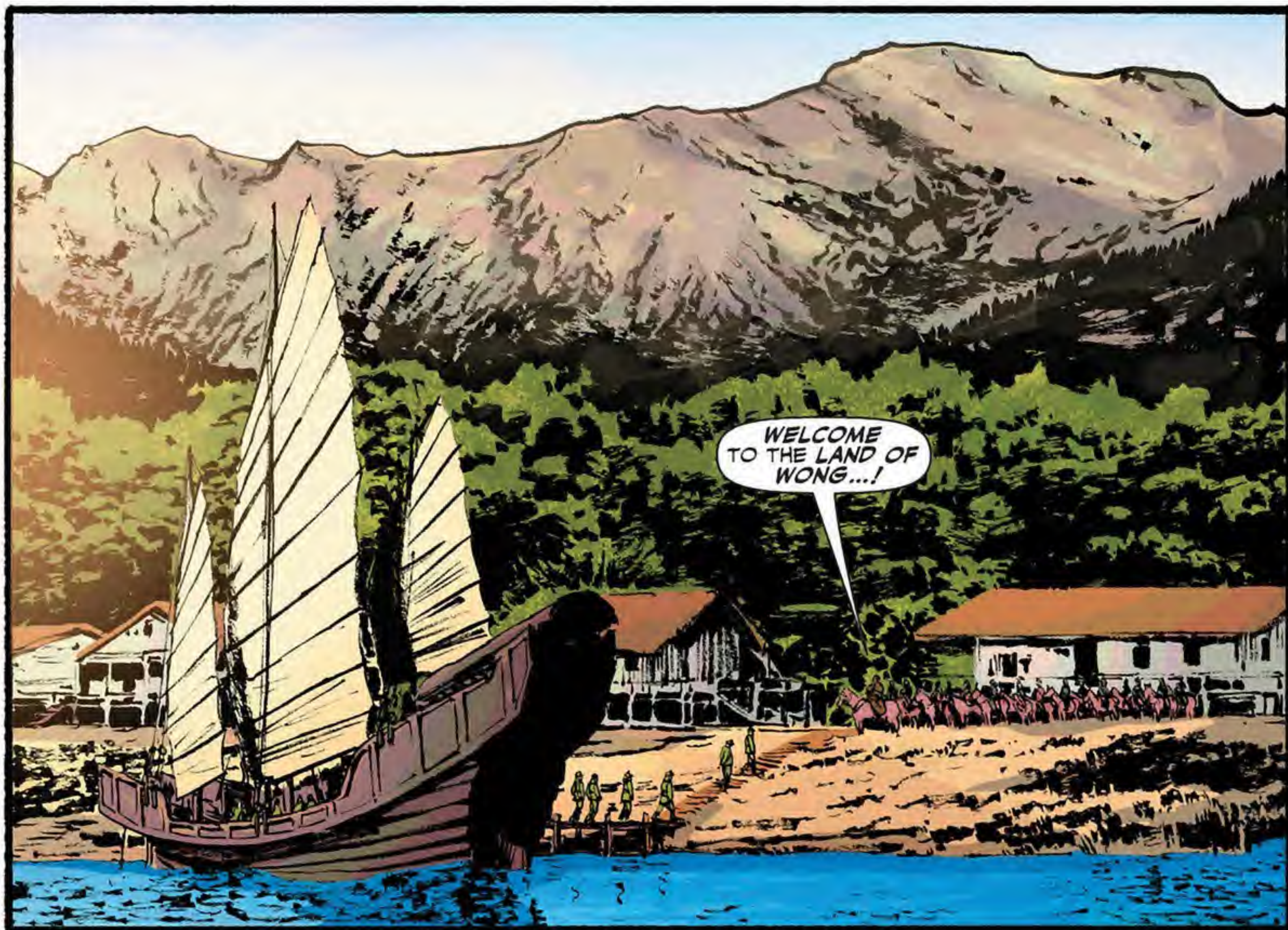
YOU
DIRTY SONS
OF BITCHES!
NO!

AAAAIIIEEEIIIGGHH!!

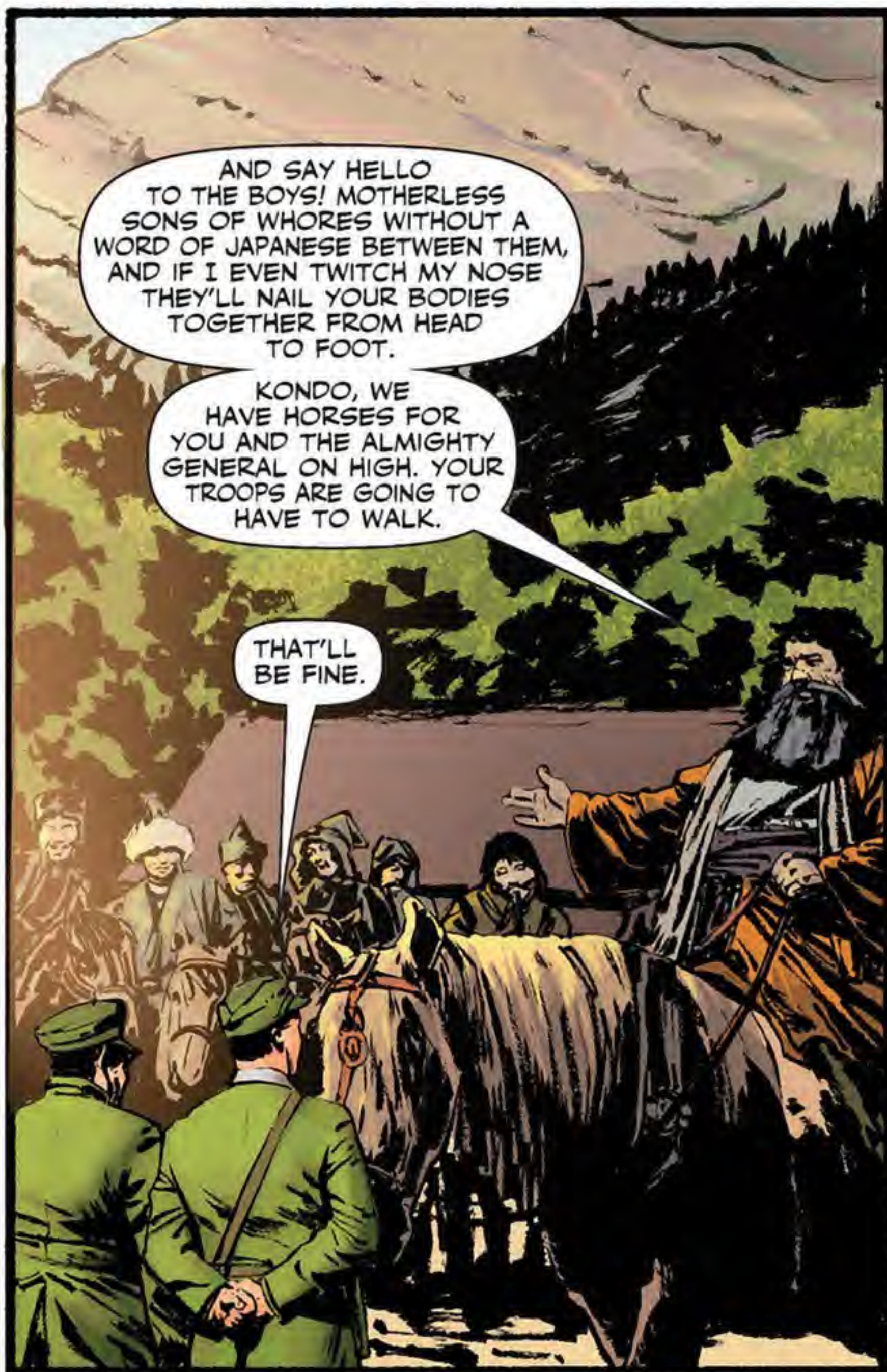


THE Shadow IN
THE FIRE OF CREATION
PART FIVE





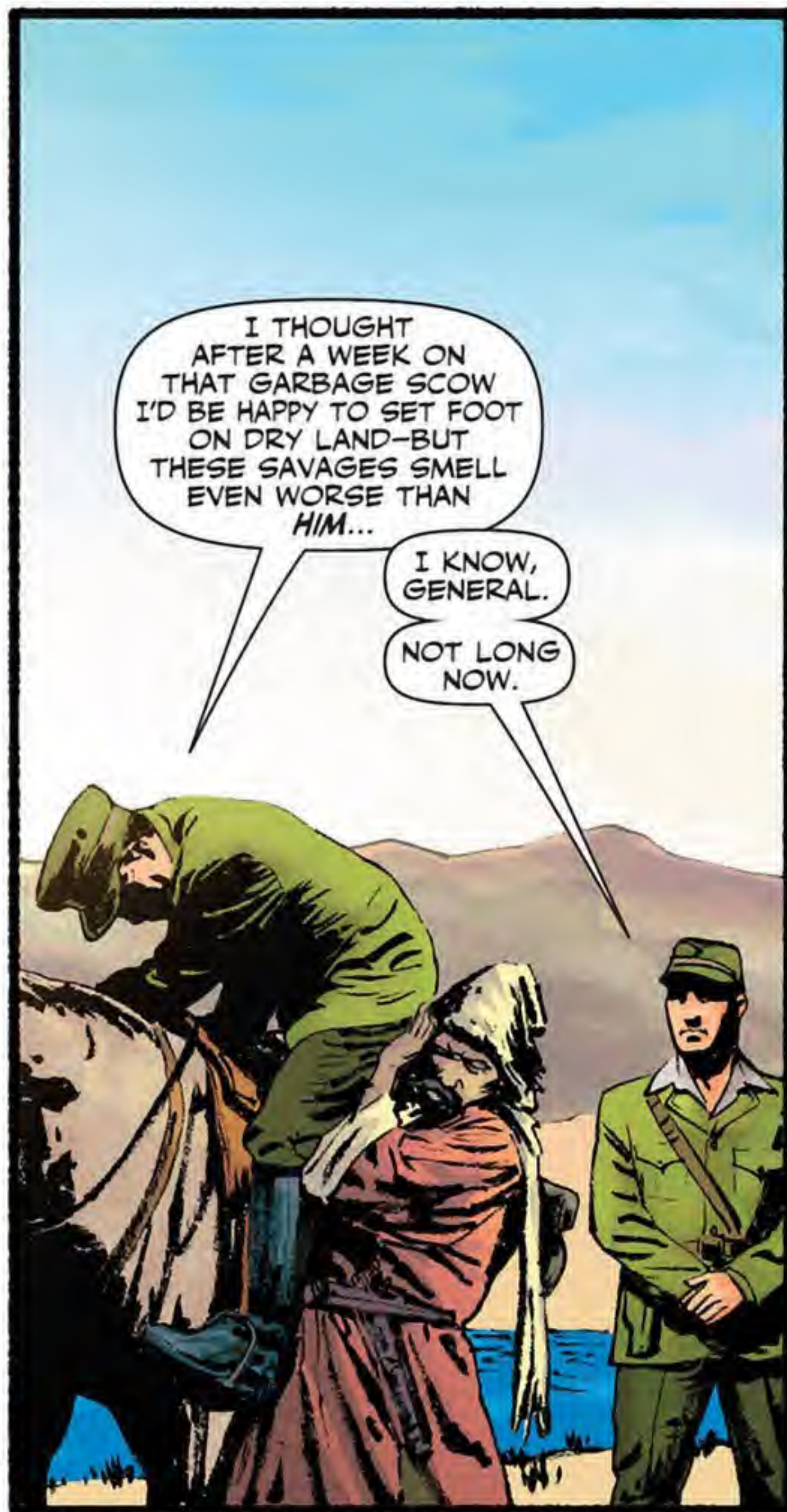
WELCOME
TO THE LAND OF
WONG...!



AND SAY HELLO
TO THE BOYS! MOTHERLESS
SONS OF WHORES WITHOUT A
WORD OF JAPANESE BETWEEN THEM,
AND IF I EVEN TWITCH MY NOSE
THEY'LL NAIL YOUR BODIES
TOGETHER FROM HEAD
TO FOOT.

KONDO, WE
HAVE HORSES FOR
YOU AND THE ALMIGHTY
GENERAL ON HIGH. YOUR
TROOPS ARE GOING TO
HAVE TO WALK.

THAT'LL
BE FINE.



I THOUGHT
AFTER A WEEK ON
THAT GARBAGE SCOW
I'D BE HAPPY TO SET FOOT
ON DRY LAND—BUT
THESE SAVAGES SMELL
EVEN WORSE THAN
HIM...

I KNOW,
GENERAL.

NOT LONG
NOW.



HOW FAR TO YOUR CAMP?

NO DISTANCE AT ALL.

AND THE ROCK IS WAITING FOR US?

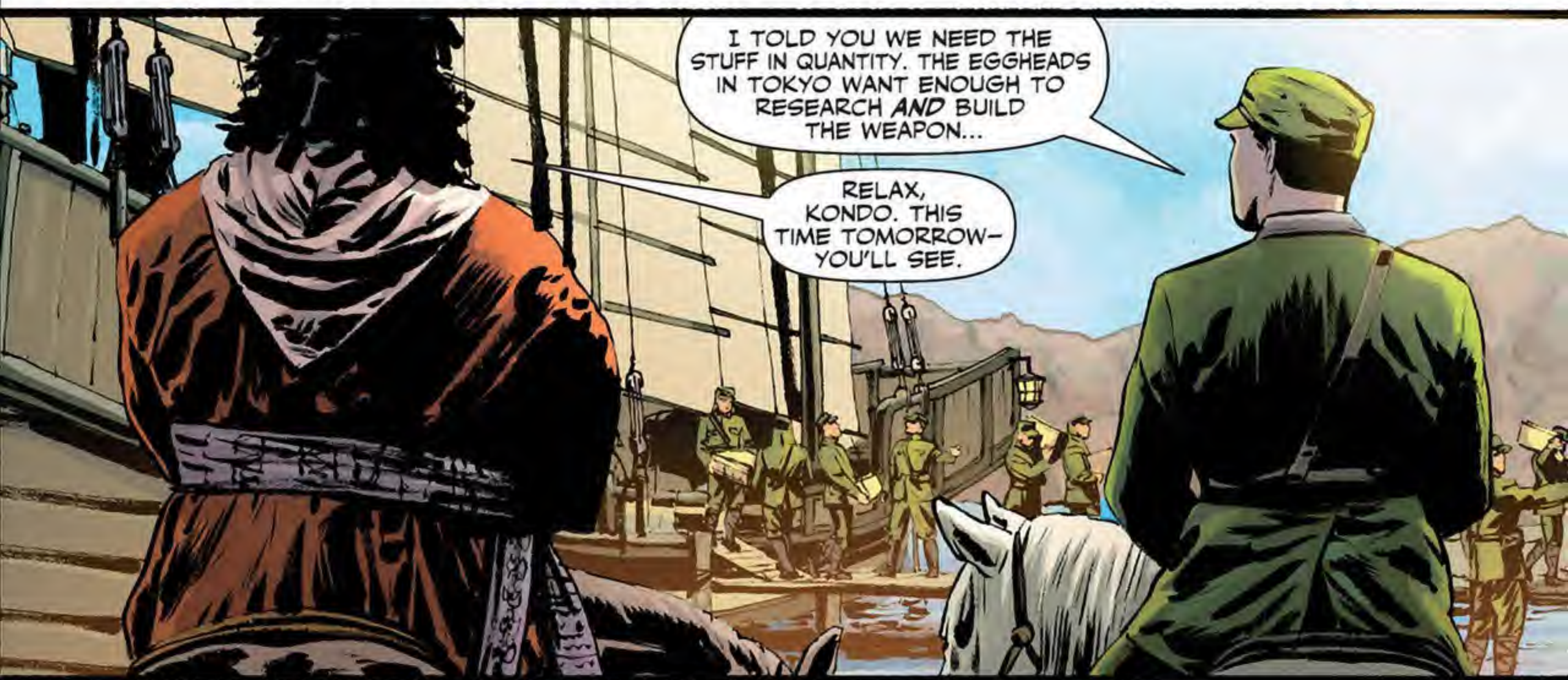
YES AND NO.



MEANING THAT THERE'S ENOUGH FOR YOU TO DO YOUR TESTS ON, JUST TO BE SURE IT'S THE GENUINE ARTICLE. BUT IT IS.

MM-HM.

MINING THE REST'LL BE EASY, WE'VE A COUPLE OF DOZEN PEASANTS EAGER TO KEEP THEIR HEADS ON THEIR SHOULDERS.



I TOLD YOU WE NEED THE STUFF IN QUANTITY. THE EGGHEADS IN TOKYO WANT ENOUGH TO RESEARCH AND BUILD THE WEAPON...

RELAX, KONDO. THIS TIME TOMORROW-YOU'LL SEE.



UNLOADING'S ALMOST FINISHED, SIR. FIVE MORE MINUTES.

GOOD.

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU, SERGEANT: KEEP THE MEN ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOUR. EYES AND EARS OPEN, ESPECIALLY IN THIS ANIMAL'S CAMP. MOUTHS SHUT.

YOU CAN RELY ON THEM, SIR. THEY'RE GOOD LADS, THEY'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES.

THEY'RE GOING TO NEED IT.

IN SPADES.



IT ALL
HAPPENED SO
FAST...



THE CAPTAIN REALIZED BEFORE I DID,
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON...
HE WAS GIVING ORDERS, AND I WAS
STILL...STILL...

IT WAS SO FAST.
BEWILDERING. WE DIDN'T
STAND A CHANCE.

DID YOU
EXPECT TO BE
GIVEN ONE?



WELL NO...
I MEAN...

THIS WHOLE
THING, IT HASN'T
BEEN A BIT LIKE WHAT
I EXPECTED. I THOUGHT
IT'D BE MORE OF AN
ADVENTURE,
REALLY.



YOU KNOW.
MORE...

RIP-ROARING.







REAR PARTY?

ASSIGNED TO CARRY THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT. WHICH IS WHY WE'VE CAUGHT UP WITH THEM FIRST.



ARE YOU GOING TO...?

I NEED TO KNOW WHERE KONDO AND THE OTHERS ARE. WONG'S TERRITORY MORE OR LESS BEGINS HERE, BUT IT'S VAST.

CAN YOU KEEP FINNEGAN OCCUPIED?



WHAT WITH, MY FEMININE WILES?

FAILING THAT, THERE'S A DECK OF CARDS IN MY SADDLEBAGS.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THEM TO TALK, ANYWAY? DO YOU EVEN SPEAK JAPANESE?



THEY'LL TALK TO ME.

DEAD OR ALIVE, THEY'LL TELL ME EVERYTHING.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EATING.

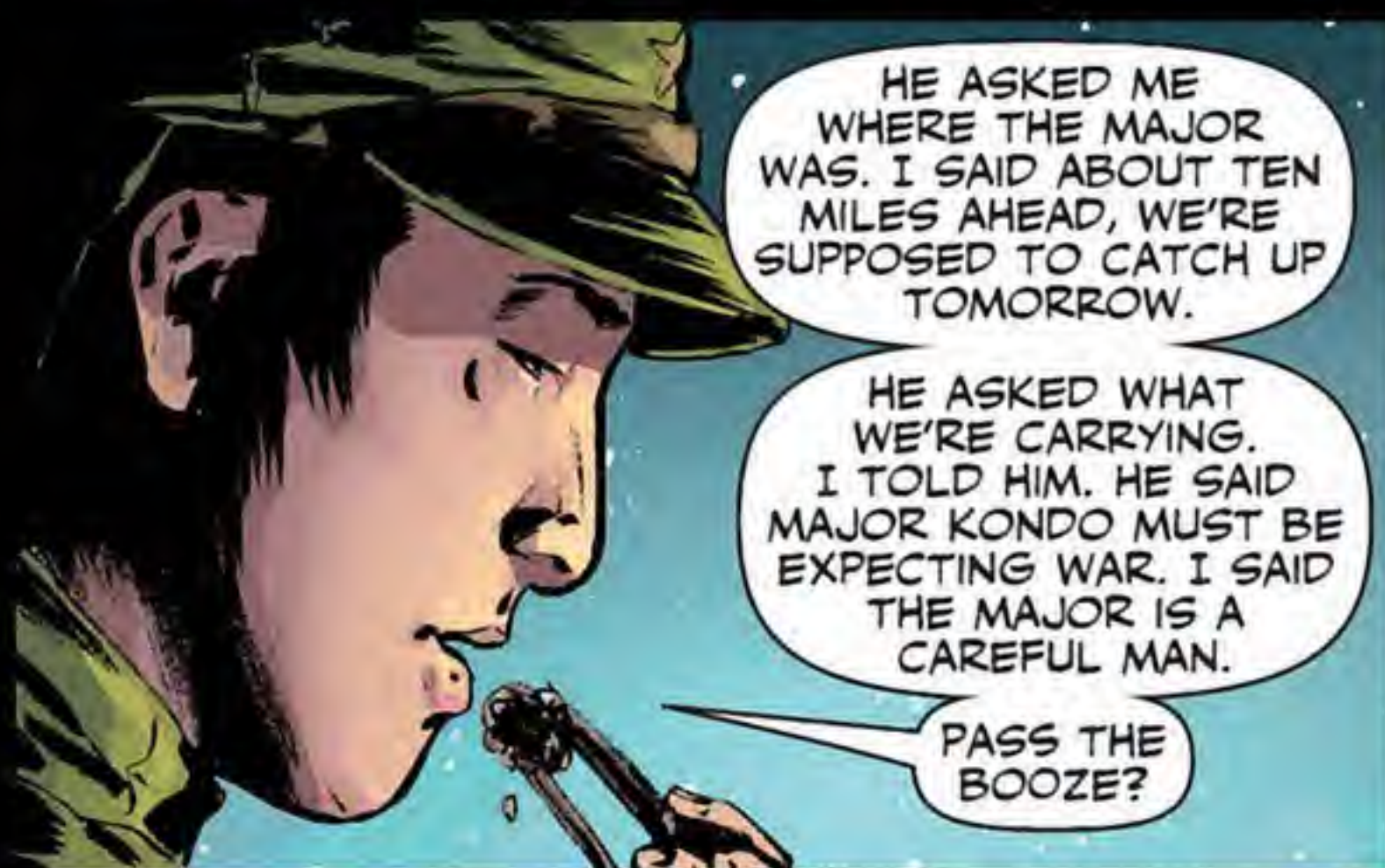
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN RELIEVED...!

HE SAID IT WAS OKAY.



YOU DON'T QUIT GUARD DUTY UNTIL I TELL YOU TO— WAIT A MINUTE, WHO SAID IT WAS OKAY?

HE DID.



HE ASKED ME WHERE THE MAJOR WAS. I SAID ABOUT TEN MILES AHEAD, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CATCH UP TOMORROW.

HE ASKED WHAT WE'RE CARRYING. I TOLD HIM. HE SAID MAJOR KONDO MUST BE EXPECTING WAR. I SAID THE MAJOR IS A CAREFUL MAN.

PASS THE BOOZE?



YOU'RE TELLING ME THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE IN THE DARK...AND YOU TOLD HIM ALL THIS...?

SURE.

HE SAID—MM—IT WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THIN US OUT A BIT.

WHAT?!

WHY DID YOU TALK TO HIM? WHY THE HELL DID YOU LEAVE YOUR POST FOR HIM?

ARE YOU COMPLETELY OUT OF YOUR—



BUUUUUUUUU

SHIT!

WHO IS
IT OUT THERE?
WHO IS IT?



YOU'RE MAKING
A MISTAKE, YOU CHINESE
VERMIN! WE ARE SOLDIERS OF
IMPERIAL JAPAN, WE ARE
YOUR MASTERS!

SHOW
YOURSELVES!
DO IT NOW OR
THERE'LL BE HELL
TO PAY!



SHOW
YOURSELVES!!



DID
YOU HEAR
THAT--?

HEAR
WHAT?
OKAY,
I KNOCK.

HMH.
KONDO...



CAREFUL
ISN'T
THE WORD
FOR IT.



D'YOU
WANT YOUR
PEASANTS' BACK
WHEN WE REACH
SHANGHAI?

NO,
FEEL FREE
TO SHOOT
THEM.



THEY-
GROMFF

THEY'RE NO
USE TO ME, THE MINING'S
DONE. LET THEM CARRY YOUR
FUNNY ROCKS FOR YOU AND
THEN YOU CAN HAVE SOME
TARGET PRACTICE.

YOU'LL BE
REMEMBERED AS
A KIND AND GRACIOUS
KING, WONG.
ALWAYS.



I'M NOT SURE I APPROVE OF
THE MEN FRATERNIZING WITH
THESE...PEOPLE...

HA!!

THEY'VE DONE
WELL, GENERAL. THEY
DESERVE TO LET THEIR
HAIR DOWN A LITTLE.

YES, IT'S BEEN A GOOD SEEING
YOU AGAIN, KONDO. HIGHLY PROFITABLE.
AND WE EVEN MANAGED NOT TO SLIT
EACH OTHER'S THROATS.

WELL,
I'LL DRINK TO
THAT...

HMMPH!

OH, COME ON, MIGHTY SIR
GENERAL OF ALL HE SURVEYS!
HAVE A DRINK WITH WONG!

YOU NEVER
KNOW, GENERAL.
IT MIGHT BE YOUR
LAST CHANCE.

LET'S
HOPE SO...

HERE'S TO YOU ANYWAY, WONG.
THESE FUNNY ROCKS, AS YOU CALL
THEM, ARE GOING TO MEAN A
LOT OF CHANGES...

TO YOUR
CAREER, YOU OLD
MERCENARY!

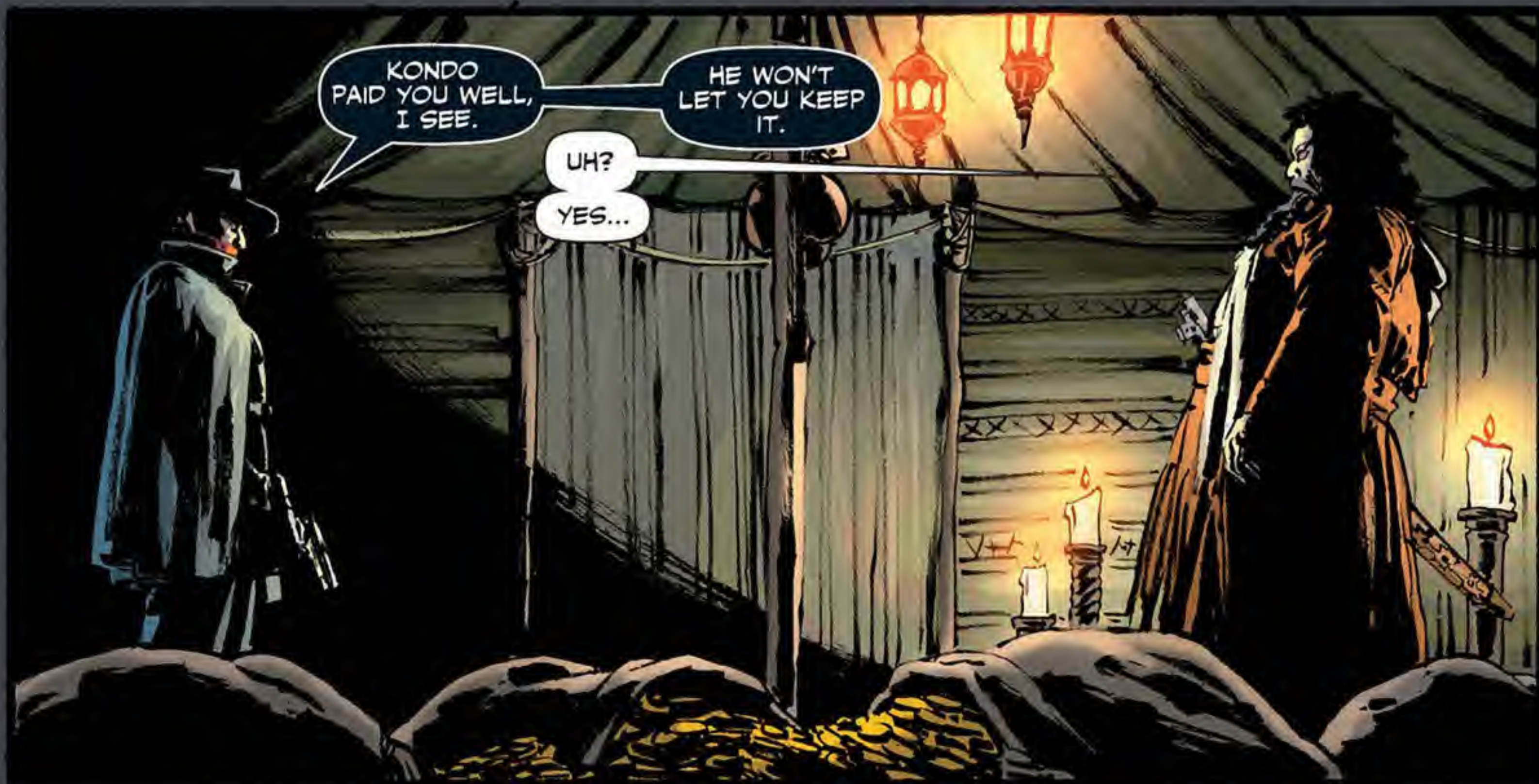
TO THE
WORLD.

I'M STILL CONCERNED
ABOUT THE MEN CARRYING
THE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT,
THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN
HERE THIS AFTERNOON
AT THE LATEST...

I WOULDN'T
WORRY, GENERAL.

IT'S ROUGH
COUNTRY UP HERE,
THERE ARE ANY NUMBER
OF THINGS THAT MIGHT
DELAY THEM...





KONDO
PAID YOU WELL,
I SEE.

HE WON'T
LET YOU KEEP
IT.

UH?

YES...



WHAT'S--?

THAT'S
HIS MEN
MASSACRING
YOURS.

"THEY WERE ORDERED
TO NURSE THEIR LIQUOR.
SPIT IT OUT. SLOP IT ON
THE GROUND.

"WE'LL HAVE A MINUTE OR TWO
BEFORE THEY COME FOR YOU.
THEIR MINDS ARE CLOUDED: PARTLY
BY BLOODLUST, PARTLY BY ME.



"LET'S TALK."



THAT
STINKING LUMP
OF--

THEY'LL
SHOOT YOU DOWN
BEFORE YOU GO
FIVE YARDS.

SINCE
WHEN ARE YOU
SENTIMENTAL OVER
HIRED SCUM?



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING...?

I CAN
HELP YOU GET
THAT GOLD OUT OF
HERE UNSEEN.

YOU CAN
HELP ME INTERCEPT
KONDO, BEFORE HE
GETS BACK TO
THE RIVER.



HEH...



HA, WELL,
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU
DECIDED TO COME TO WONG.
HE'S NOT GOING BACK BY
BOAT, HE'S GOING OVERLAND
ALL THE WAY EAST
IN CASE YOU OR THE
RUSSIANS OR--





MORE
BACKSTABBING.
MORE DECEIT.
IT SICKENS
ME.

WHATEVER
GETS THE JOB DONE,
GENERAL.

WHAT DID
THEY TEACH YOU,
ALLARD?

KONDO, IS
THERE ANYTHING
ELSE YOU
HAVEN'T TOLD ME
ABOUT--?

WHOEVER
IT WAS. WHEREVER
THEY TOOK YOU.

WHAT THE
HELL DID THEY
MAKE YOU
INTO?

THEY TAUGHT
ME TO RECOGNIZE
EVIL IN THE HEARTS
OF MEN BY LOOKING
IN MY OWN.

THEY
MADE ME INTO
DEATH ITSELF.

FINISH
THIS.

YOU THINK
YOU'RE D



YOU--
HRRRGHH

YOU-
LITTLE-

I'LL BELIEVE
YOU CAN STAY UP
WITH PART OF YOUR
BRAIN GONE,
WONG.

NOT
YOUR HIP.

AAAH--!

YOU...
AAAWWHH...!

YOU
ALWAYS
WERE

SUCH A
SHIT

ALLARD



WORTHLESS!
ALL OF IT!
WORTHLESS!

KONDO,
WHAT THE HELL IS
THE MATTER WITH
YOU--?



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THE MATTER IS,
GENERAL: THIS IS *CRAP*. IT'S IRON PYRITE
OR SOMETHING, IT'S ABOUT AS MUCH USE
FOR BUILDING SECRET WEAPONS AS
THE HOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF
MY ARSE.

WHAT...?

THAT BASTARD
WONG, THAT SON OF A
BITCH, I *KNEW* IT WAS
TOO GOOD TO
BE TRUE--!



IT HIT ME JUST NOW. THAT'S
WHY I TESTED THE ROCKS IN
OUR SHIPMENT, NOT
WONG'S SAMPLE.

HE MUST HAVE
HAD JUST ENOUGH
OF THE REAL THING TO
CONVINCE US. I DON'T KNOW
WHERE HE FOUND IT, BUT HE'S
HARDLY GOING TO BE
TELLING US NOW.

BUT-
BUT-



BUT
THAT MEANS
WE'VE-
FAILED...!



AFRAID SO. WE'RE RIGHT BACK TO SQUARE ONE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING TO START LOOKING NOW.

I AM TRULY SORRY, GENERAL. I PULLED EVERY DIRTY TRICK I COULD THINK OF—I KNEW IT UPSET YOU, BUT I THOUGHT THE ENDS JUSTIFIED THE MEANS.

BUT I FAILED YOU.



WHAT...

WHAT IS THE EMPEROR GOING TO SAY?



I PROMISED HIM—

SWORE TO HIM--!



I AM THE
ONE WHO HAS
FAILED.

WHAT...?

HAVE MY
KATANA BROUGHT
TO ME.

AND I'LL
NEED SOMEONE
TO ACT AS MY
SECOND.

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M GOING TO
DO, KONDO?

I'M GOING
TO TEACH YOU A
LESSON IN JAPANESE
HONOR.

GENERAL—

ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT
WHAT I THINK
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT?

TO BE CONCLUDED

**FROM THE TALES OF CINDERELLA,
SLEEPING BEAUTY, THE LITTLE
MERMAID, & SNOW WHITE
COMES DAMSELS!**

THERE IS NO HAPPY EVER AFTER!

**AN INTERVIEW WITH DAMSELS WRITERS
LEAH MOORE AND JOHN REPPION**

What's the general premise of Damsels?

Damsels is a comic fantasy series set in a place where mythology, folklore and fairy tales are all mixed in together, and where magic is very, very real. At the beginning of the story the three great kingdoms of Perrault on the Western coast, Caumont in the eastern mountains, and Villeneuve in the central forests are about to enter into an historic and significant alliance. Into the middle of this momentous union stumbles curious a tattooed wanderer with something not quite right about her, and events begin to take an unexpected turn.

Tell me about each fairy tale heroine and what role does each of them play in the miniseries.

Well... that's a *little* bit tricky without being too spoilery. However, it's not giving too much away to say that Perrault's king Aurore once waked his queen, Talia, from a hundred year slumber, and that there was a tall building involved when Caumont's King Persine met his future wife, Rapunzel. Beyond that I think we should keep things as a surprise for now.

Have you always been a fan of fairy tales? What was the first one that was told to you?

Absolutely! Fairy tales, folk tales, ghost stories... all the good stuff! I honestly don't know what the first fairy tale I was ever told would have been although, for some reason, I'm leaning towards either The Three Little Pigs, or the Billy Goats Gruff. I was lucky enough to be read to a lot when I was young, so the characters of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, and Enid Blyton were all mixed in with the traditional Grimm and Anderson ones in my own childhood pantheon.

How true are these characters to their source material? Did you have to do a lot of research for the book?

Ah, we love research. We've gone right back to the original Grimm fairy tales (and earlier in some cases) for much of our source material and we were both genuinely surprised at some of the strange details, and even entire stories, that seem to have been ignored or overlooked for so long by so many. That's not to say we're trying to create any kind of groundbreaking academic, historic work with Damsels - this is a great big, bouncy, fun, fairy tale, fantasy world that we're exploring - but we always like to make sure we're going back to the source before we start messing about with stuff.

Why will fans of fairy tales want to pick up this book?

Hopefully because they want to read something done by fans of the genre written by fans of the genre - something that plays with familiar characters and stories but twists them round into something new and fun and exciting.

Tell me about your first issue. What should people expect in Damsels #1?

It's a really fun first issue. We pretty much hit the ground running with the arrival of our mysterious tattooed drifter, named Rapa, in the kingdom of Caumont just as the king and queen of Perrault are arriving to cement the alliance of the two territories. There are fairies, monsters, there's espionage, intrigue... everything we could cram in there, we did.

The artist for Damsels is Aneke and it is quite striking. Why do you think she is such a good fit for the book?

When we saw Aneke's sample pieces for the project we knew straight away that she was the artist for us. Her style is just perfect for the book, blending serious and believable characters with fun, almost cartoony, bouncy action without there being any disparity. Every time we get new pages through we're just amazed at how perfectly she's realised and fleshed out the world of Damsels.

What's coming up down the line in the rest of the Damsels comic book series? Would you both come back to tell more stories about these characters in the future?

Again, there's so much I'd love to say about what's coming up but I *really* don't want to spoil anything, suffice it to say that there will be plenty of characters and names from folk/fairy tales cropping up - some familiar, some not so much, and some in rather unexpected ways.

We'd love to write more stories set in the world of Damsels - the possibilities are pretty much limitless. We're already thinking about what we'd like to do next!



ENJOY THE FOLLOWING PREVIEW OF DAMSELS #1

Written by Leah Moore & John Reppion
Art by Aneke
Colors by Ivan Nunes
Letters by Simon Bowland
Covers by J. Scott Campbell & Sean Chen

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